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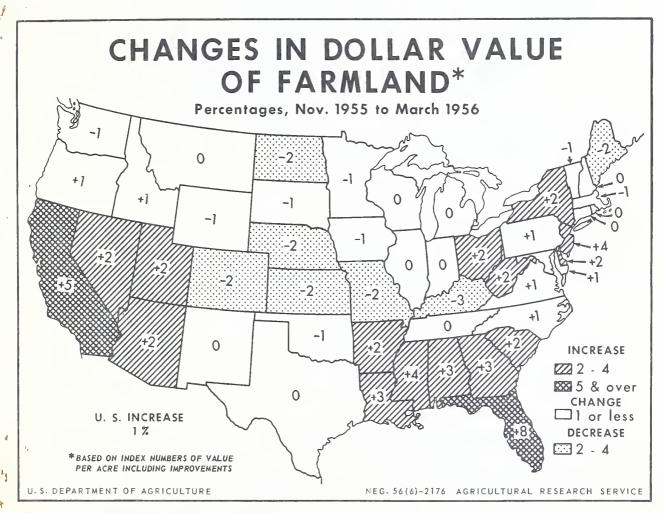
**FOR RELEASE** JULY 2, P.M.

# THE FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET

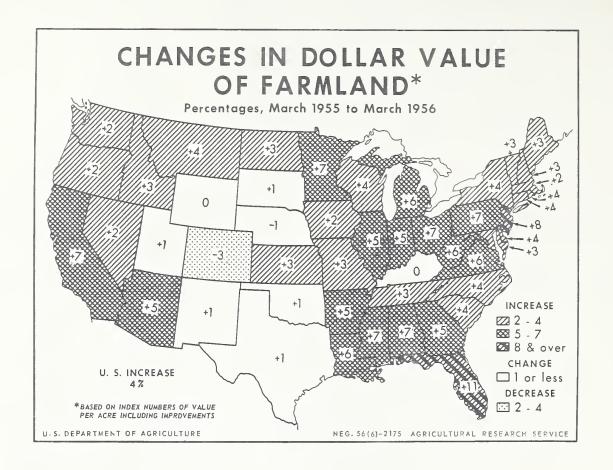
**Agricultural Research Service** UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

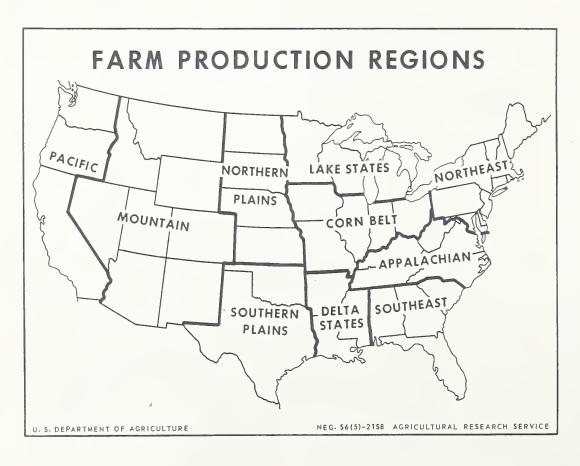
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MARCH 1956



Values of farm real estate in the United States averaged 1 percent higher during the 4 months ended March 1, 1956. Increases were common in the Eastern and Southern States. Values were essentially unchanged in the States of the Corn Belt, Lake, and Appalachian regions, but declined in the Great Plains. The March 1, 1956, national index was 138 percent of the 1947-49 base period. This was a new record high and 4 percent above the post-Korean peak of 1952. New record highs were established in 21 States this March.





#### CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FARM REAL ESTATE MARKET

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, June 26, 1956

#### SUMMARY

The average value of farmland in the United States increased less than 1 percent during the 4-month period ended March 1, 1956, a slower rate than during any period of similar length in the last 2 years. Increases during the latest period occurred in all States along the Atlantic and Gulf coast and several Mountain and Pacific States. Values were essentially unchanged in the Corn Belt and Lake States while decreases were reported in the Northern Plains. The March 1, 1956 index of average value for the United States was 138 percent of the 1947-49 average, a new record high, and 4 percent above the post-Korean high in 1952. In terms of the 1912-14 average value, the index was 232.

During the year ended last March, values of farmland increased in all regions of the country. The United States average value was 4 percent higher. The largest increases were recorded in the Southeastern States where they ranged from 5 to 11 percent. Values in most of the Northeastern, Lake, and Delta States were up nearly as much. Values declined in only 2 States—Colorado and Nebraska.

Continued strong demand for farmland to enlarge existing farms, together with the opinion that farmland is still a safe long-term investment, appears to have sustained land values throughout the country despite the decline in farm income. Urban and industrial expansion, demand for part-time farms and rural residences, increased use of land for timber production, and climatic conditions were additional factors tending to hold up farmland values in various regions.

The consensus of farm real estate reporters in a March survey was that values of farmland may decline slightly during the next 6 months, although some increase was expected in several southern and northeastern States as well as California. These reporters indicated that the demand for farmland weakened slightly during the last year, and they also observed some increase in the number of farms on the market.

The total dollar value of all farm real estate as of March 1, 1956, was estimated at \$102.4 billion, 4 percent above the revised estimate of \$98.5 billion for March 1, 1955. Farm buildings accounted for 24 percent of the value of all farm real estate, or a total value of \$24.3 billion. This was about the same as the revised estimate for a year earlier.

Nearly three-fourths of purchases of farms during the year ended March l were credit-financed, about the same proportion as a year earlier. The total amount of farm-mortgage debt outstanding January 1, 1956, was 10 percent higher than a year earlier. This was one of the sharpest increases in recent years. Although more liberal loan policies were adopted by several major institutional lenders during the last year, local observers noted a general contraction in the availability of credit this last spring and winter as compared with a year earlier.

### Land Values Show Mixed Changes but National Average Advances

Increases in the average value of farmland in 22 States during the 4 months ended March 1, 1956, more than offset decreases in values in 15 States, thus raising the average value for the country as a whole approximately 1 percent during the period. The March 1, 1956, index was 138 (1947-49=100), one point above the November 1955 level and a new record high. Thus, the period of rising land values that started from the post-Korean low in late 1953 and early 1954 continued. However, the increase for November 1955 to March 1956 was the smallest for any 4 month period in the last 2 years. The current level of land values is 4 percent above the 1952 peak and 34 percent above the post-World War I high in 1920. Values increased 2 percent or more in 16 States from November to March, declined 2 percent or more in 7 States, and were essentially unchanged in the remaining 25. Most of the decreases occurred in the western Corn Belt and the Great Plains. Largest increases generally occurred in the Southeastern and Delta States, where they averaged 3 to 4 percent.

In the last year, average values increased 4 percent nationally, the same as in the previous year. Increases were noted in all except 2 States--Colorado and Nebraska. Increases of more than 4 percent were common throughout the eastern half of the country, with an increase of 7 percent in the Southeastern States leading all others (table 1). However, the Northeastern, Lake and Delta States all reported increases that averaged 6 percent. Values in the Southern Plains and Mountain States were essentially unchanged. Increases in these States averaged only 1 percent during the year.

Increases during the latest 4-month period pushed the index of land values in 21 States to new record peaks while the March 1956 index equaled the previous high in 8 others. New record highs were recorded in all Atlantic and Gulf Coast States from New Jersey south, except in Texas. Values in several Mountain and the three Pacific States also reached new peaks. Values in most of the remaining States are still below the highs established in 1952 and early 1953. Iowa, Missouri, South Dakota, and Nebraska are outstanding exceptions, as values in these States have not exceeded the high levels of 1920. In South Dakota, values are currently 28 percent below values in 1920. In the other three States they are 6 to 8 percent lower.

## Land Values Continue to Rise Despite Lower Farm Income

With land values increasing approximately 1 percent between November 1, 1955, and March 1, 1956, the departure from the usual relationship between land values and farm income was prolonged. From March 1955 to March 1956, land values advanced 4 percent. Farmers' realized net income declined 9 percent from calendar 1954 to 1955. This disparity between land values and farm income and commodity prices has become particularly apparent for more than 2 years. There is no single explanation of this seeming paradox. Several factors contribute in varying degrees to the increase in values in different areas, while 2 factors apparently apply to the country as a whole. 1/

<sup>1/</sup> For a more detailed discussion of these factors that sustain land values see U. S. Dept. Agr., Agr. Res. Serv. ARS 43-25. Current Developments in the Farm Real Estate Market. Nov. 1955; released March 16, 1956, pp 10 & 11.

Table 1.- Percentage change in index of average value of farm real estate per acre, by farm production regions, selected periods, 1954-56

7		Charana	3		. Char			
Farm	:_		during yea				the state of the s	onths ended
production .	:	March	: March	: March	: Mai		March	: March
region 1	:	1954	: 1955	: 1956	: 195	54 :	1955	: 1956
	:	Percent	Percent	Percent	: Per	cent	Percent	Percent
	8				•			
Northeast	\$	- 1	+ 2	+ 6	•	0	+ 1	+ 2
Corn Belt	:	- 2	+ 5	+ 4	: +	2	+ 1	- 1
Lake States	:	- 4	+ 4	+ 6	:	0	+ 2	0
Appalachian	:	<del>-</del> 5	+ 2	+ 3	:	0	+ 1	0
Southeast	:	+ 1	+ 2	+ 7	: +	1	+ 2	+ 4
Delta States	:	- 2	+ 2	+ 6	•	0	+ 2	+ 3
Southern Plains	:	- 1	+ 4	+ 1	•	1	+ 1	0
Northern Plains	:	- 4	+ 3	+ 2	2	0	+ 2	- 1
Mountain	:	- 1	+ 1	+ 1	: +	2	+ 1	0
Pacific	\$	- 2	+ 5	+ 5	•	0	+ 2	+ 4
	8				:			
United States	:	- 3	+ 4	+ 4		0	+ 2	+ 1
	:				:			

1/ A new area grouping of States has been adopted by the Production Economics Research Branch for its statistical series. These areas are referred to as "Farm Production Regions" (see map, inside cover). These areas replace the grouping of States by geographic divisions previously used in this report and for many other statistical series. The new indexes of average value of farm real estate per acre for farm production regions are shown in table 3 from 1940 to date. This series using 1947-49 as a base period has not as yet been computed prior to 1940. Until these computations are made, the index using 1912-14 as a base will be published by geographic divisions, and the 1947-49 based series will be presented by farm production regions.

One factor concerns the beliefs and attitudes of people toward land, which have become strong market forces in sustaining demand and in limiting the acreage of land for sale. In a survey made in October 1955, the most widely held of these beliefs was that farmland was still considered to be a safe and desirable long-term investment that offers prospects of capital appreciation, or at least protection, as the national economy continues to expand. A March 1956 survey indicates that no significant change has occurred with respect to the extent to which this attitude prevails.

The other reason, and perhaps the most important, at least in the commercial farming areas, is the continuing demand from existing farmers for land to add to their present acreage in order to obtain the benefits of increased efficiency made possible by advanced farm technology. Obtaining control of more land, whether by purchase or rental, is one of the more important means whereby unit costs can be reduced on many thousands of commercial farms that are still below the optimum acreage for efficient use of available labor and equipment.

## Regional Factors that Affect the Farm Real Estate Market

Several important regional factors are responsible for continuing strength in the farm real estate market. Among these are urban and industrial expansion, demand for part-time farms and rural residences, increased demand for land for timber production, and climatic conditions with their resultant effects on crop yields and income expectations.

The Northeastern and Southeastern States, as well as California, have been influenced most by the expansion of urban and industrial uses of land. Although the sale of farmland for urban and industrial uses is largely excluded from the data used for computing the index, such sales have an important indirect upward effect on land values in the surrounding community. As farmland sold for such uses brings prices well above those if sold for farming purposes, the seller is in a better financial position to buy a farm elsewhere. In the present relatively tight supply situation, he is often able to pay a higher price for the new farm than could be paid by a beginning farmer or a prospective purchaser in a less favorable financial position, or one that could be justified by prospective longtime earnings from the farm.

In these and to a lesser extent in most other areas, the demand for parttime farms and rural residences has increased in the last few years. Many farms
that would not be economical as farming units alone are attractive to prospective
purchasers who have nonfarm jobs and do not expect these farms to pay for themselves. They see many advantages to living in the country now that, with expansion of rural electrification and better roads, most of the conveniences of
urban living are available in rural areas. Many reporters have commented that
it is possible to buy a small farm for no more than the cost of a house alone in
a city and thus to have the advantage of employing family labor in production of
some farm commedities to supplement income.

Strong demand for land for production of pulpwood timber has also contributed to the advance in land values, particularly in the Southeastern and Delta States. In the last year, values advanced 7 and 6 percent, respectively, in these areas, the sharpest increases of any States. Continued expansion of citrus groves, improvement of pastures, and the rapid influx of population have had an upward influence on average values of farmland in Florida. In addition, weather was favorable for crop production throughout the Southeastern area during 1955. This followed 3 years of drought in many parts of the area. Record high crop yields were set in 1955 for many of the crops grown in the area—rice, cotton, tobacco, sugarcane, and sweetpotatoes.

The average value of farmland in the Corn Belt increased less than in most of the other eastern regions primarily because of smaller increases in value in Iowa and Missouri. Large areas of the western Corn Belt experienced moderate to serious drought in 1955 and this reduced yields of corn and sorghum. The 6-percent increase in the lake States was apparently due to demand for part-time farms, industrial expansion, and the favorable position of receipts from dairy products relative to other farm commodities. The increase in land values in the

Great Plains States averaged only 1 to 2 percent during the year. Drought and wind erosion in this area killed or heavily damaged millions of acres of winter wheat in 1955. Even so, the demand for land from farmers desiring to enlarge existing farms is particularly strong, as evidenced by sales data which show that almost half of all transfers were for farm enlargement. Part of this demand stems from a desire to reduce unit costs by operating more land without additional investment in machinery and equipment. With additional land, this is possible on many farms that are now below the optimum size for full utilization of existing implements. The desire to increase base acreages on which allotted acres and marketing quotas are computed for those crops that are under acreage allotments also helps to maintain the strong demand for the limited acreage of land that comes on the market.

In the Mountain region, values declined in Colorado, were unchanged in Wyoming and advanced from 1 to 5 percent in the remaining States of the region during the year. Parts of Colorado and Wyoming suffered from the drought and wind erosion that hit the Plains States during the 1955 growing season. Values in Arizona advanced 5 percent, with expansion of population and irrigation playing a prominent role. Increases occurred in all Pacific States. California led with a 7-percent rise in values. Much of this rise was due to continued expansion of cities and urban areas. The consequent demand for farmland in these areas exerted an upward influence on land prices generally.

In the year ended March 1, 1956, the value of irrigated land increased 3 to 4 percent in most States of the western area. Irrigated land values declined 2 percent however, in Oregon and Colorado. In the latter State, the value of all classes of land declined from 2 to 4 percent, with grazing land down most. This was the only State in which values of all classes of land declined. Values of dry farmland were 4 to 6 percent higher in most parts of the region , except in Colorado and New Mexico, although a slight decline was reported in Utah also. Montana was the only State in the Northern part of the region that did not show a decline in the value of grazing land. Values of this class of land were reported to be 6 percent higher in California and Arizana.

# Land Values May Decline Slightly During the Next 6 Months

Expected changes in the price of farmland during the next few months varied by regions this spring. The Southern States had experienced, last year, one of the best crop seasons for a number of recent years, and this was reflected in a feeling of optimism about the future for many farm owners. Conversely, in the Great Plains and western Corn Belt, unfavorable weather in 1955 was still viewed this spring as a factor in limiting market activity. Prospects in 1956 for irrigation water from streams in the Western States appear to be generally better than they were last year. General economic conditions continue favorable and many landowners believe that a growing population insures that land will be a safe investment. Many reporters commented that uncertainty about farm legislation has caused farmers to adopt a wait and see attitude if they are faced with the possibility of selling their land.

Because prospective purchasers vary widely in their evaluation of the many factors that enter into their decisions to buy or not to buy farmland and the

price they are willing to pay, it is not possible to obtain precise measures of probable price changes in the future. However, some clues were obtained concerning local opinions from the Department's regular farm real estate reporters in the March survey. Reporters were asked what changes they expected in the selling price of farmland of average quality in the next 6 months. In 32 States, more reporters expected values to decline than expected them to increase. The States in which reporters expected an increase were generally in the Southeast, Delta, and Northeastern regions, as well as California. Nationally, the range in opinions was about the same as in October 1955, but fewer reporters expected an increase and more anticipated a decrease than in March 1955. The proportion expecting little change was about the same in all three surveys. Strongest suggestions of a decrease were returned from the Central Plains and western Corn Belt States. In the Appalachian region and the eastern Corn Belt, reporters' opinions were that values would remain largely unchanged with some possibility of a decline. Reporters in Florida were generally of the opinion that increases could be expected in the value of the three general classes of land -- citrus. pasture, and other farmland.

As in past surveys, reporters were asked what changes they expected in the selling prices of good and poor quality land. The number who expected declines in the value of good farmland was generally smaller than in the case of poor land. Reporters who expected increases in the value of good land were more frequent in the Southeastern, Delta, and Northeastern States. Elsewhere, reporters generally expected little change. More reporters in most States expected declines in the value of poor land than in the value of good land. Again, however, in the Southeast and the Delta States, indications of a decline were weakest, and in the western Corn Belt and Central Plains States, they were strongest.

Reporters in the 11 Western States were asked as to the change they expected in the value of irrigated, dry farming, and grazing land. In most States of the region, those reporters who expected declines were more numerous than those who expected increases for all classes of land. California was the chief exception, as some increase in value was suggested for all three classes of land-strongest in the case of irrigated land and weakest for grazing land.

# Total Value of Farm Real Estate Advances 2/

Preliminary estimates of the average value of farmland reported by the 1954 Census of Agriculture provide new benchmarks for estimates of the total dollar value of farm real estate and farm buildings alone. The preliminary estimate of the total value of farm real estate as of March 1, 1956, is \$102.4 billion. or an average value of \$88.40 per acre (table 2). This is 4 percent above the revised estimate for March 1, 1955, of \$98.5 billion, or an average of \$85.00 per acre. The value of farm buildings this March is estimated at \$24.3 billion, approximately 24 percent of the value of all real estate (table 2). The comparable figure for a year earlier was \$24.4 billion, or approximately 25 percent of the total value of land and buildings. Thus, although the total value of land and

<sup>2/</sup> Final estimates of total value of farm real estate and buildings for States and the United States will not be available until later in 1956 when the revised series for the United States will be published.

Table 2 .- Farm Real Estate: Estimated total value and value per acre of land and buildings and total value of farm buildings, by farm production regions, March 1, 1955 and 1956. 1/

Farm	:		March 1955		•		March 1956	
production	:	Land and	l buildings	: Value o	f:	Land and	buildings	: Value of
-	:	Value per	: Total	: buildin	gs:	Value per	: Total	: buildings
region		acre 2/	: value	: 3/		acre 2/	: value	: 3/
	_		Million	Million			Million	Million
	•	Dollars	dollars	dollars		Dollars	dollars	dollars
Northeast	•	134.60	6,154	3,278		141.40	6,465	3,415
Corn Belt	•	175.30	24,167	6.192		182.90	25,212	6.324
Lake States		111.30	7.928	3,340		118.00	8.406	3.527
Appalachian	•	101.40	7,708	2,846		105.30	8,000	2,943
Southeast		78.00	5.780	1.670		84.10	6,227	1,589
Delta States		81.90	4.104	967		87.00	4,357	861
Southern Plains		61.10	11,090	1,313		61.70	11,198	1,133
Northern Plains		58.30	10,737	1.605		59.30	10.914	1,580
Mountain		32.30	8,425	1,263		32.80	8.572	1,133
Pacific	:	161.90	12,382	1,911		170.70	13,061	1,787
United States		85.00	98,475	24,385	~	88.40	102,412	24,293
OHTOGU BOYCES	:	09.00	30,413	24,307		00.40	102,412	24,273

<sup>1/</sup> The change shown by the index from November 1954 to March 1955 was applied to 1954 preliminary census values, by States, to obtain preliminary estimates of total value for March 1, 1955. March 1956 estimates were based on the change shown by the index from March 1955 to March 1956.

and buildings increased 4 percent during the year, the value of buildings declined slightly-less than 1 percent.

Although the actual decline in total value of farm buildings has been noted only for the last 3 years, their relative value, as measured by the percentage of total value of land and buildings represented by buildings alone, has declined steadily from 1940 when they represented 31 percent of the total value of farm real estate. The sharpest declines in relative value of buildings has occurred in those areas in which farm enlargement has progressed most rapidly. In these areas, fewer sets of farm buildings are needed and those on single farm units that are combined with existing farms have little market value, unless they are close to a city or town and the farmhouse can be rented as a residence. In many instances, land without buildings sells for a higher price per acre than comparable land with buildings. Landlords often find it easier to rent land without

<sup>2/</sup> Acres in farms as reported by the 1954 census of agriculture.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes both farm dwellings and service buildings. Based on relationship between value of land with improvements, and without improvements, as reported by crop reporters, March 1.

buildings to adjoining farm operators than to rent a complete farm unit. and they avoid the cost of maintenance and repair of buildings as well as taxes on such improvements.

### Number of Farms Sold Probably Lower

Although the usual estimates of the rate of farm transfers by various methods are not yet available, some indication of the change in number of voluntary transfers was obtained from the March survey of farm real estate reporters. They were asked whether the number of farm sales during the winter and spring of 1955-56 had increased, changed little, or decreased compared with the same period a year earlier. Replies to this question do not give a quantitative measurement, but they indicate several regional differences in the volume of sales. Reports from the Southeastern and Delta States suggested that probably more farms were sold during the year ended March 1, 1956, than a year earlier. However, the volume of sales in the Southern Plains, western Corn Belt, and Lake States was probably a little less than a year earlier. This was also apparently the case in most of the Western States, except California, Arizona and New Mexico. On balance, it would appear that the total number of farm transfers for 1955-56 was probably about the same, or a little less than in 1954-55.

### Fewer Inquiries for Farmland

One factor that has contributed substantially to the strength in land values during the last 2 years has been the continued strong demand for farmland from most classes of buyers. Although it is not possible to measure changes in the demand for farmland because of its several unique characteristics, some indication of such changes were obtained in the March survey. Reporters were asked to indicate whether the number of inquiries to buy farmland during the last few months had increased, changed little, or decreased, as compared with the same period a year earlier.

This March, indications were that the demand for farmland in 36 States had tended to weaken during the last year throughout most of the country. The proportion of total reporters that had observed a decline in inquiries was larger than those that had observed an increase. Nationally, 15 percent reported an increase, 32 percent a decline, and 53 percent observed no change. A year earlier, the proportion reporting little change in inquiries was the same, but those reporting change were about equally divided between those noting an increase, and those noting a decrease. The decline this Aarch appeared to be strongest in the western Corn Belt, Appalachian, Great Plains, and Northwestern States. Significant declines were observed in two Mountain States—Colorado and Idaho. In New Jersey, Florida, and California—States in which nonfarm influences have been strong factors sustaining farmland values—a substantial proportion of reporters observed an increase in inquiries. In the Delta States the number of inquiries had changed little or increased slightly during the year.

## Number of Farms on the Market May Have Increased

Many reporters have commented in the last 2 years that farmland was in "strong hands" and "tightly held". Most farmers as well as nonoperating owners have been reluctant to sell their land even though farm income was not as

high as in years in the immediate past. To obtain some indication of the overall supply situation, reporters were asked whether the number of farms for sale has increased, changed little, or declined during recent months, compared with a similar period a year earlier. Reports this March showed that the number of farms listed for sale may have increased slightly during the year. Last October reporters said that little change in listings occurred in the March to October period of 1955. This suggests that any increase that took place during the year probably occurred in the last half of 1955 and the first part of 1956.

Listings of farms tended to be higher in most Western and Northern Plains States. Strongest indications of an increase in the rest of the country were noted in Missouri and Wisconsin. In most of the remaining States, reporters observed little change during the year.

## Method of Financing Farm Purchases Largely Unchanged

During the year ended March 1, 1956, the proportion of purchasers of farms who used credit was about the same as a year earlier. In a March survey, farm real estate reporters estimated that 73 percent of all farm sales during the previous 12 months had involved the use of some form of credit. This was 1 percent less than a year earlier. Nationally, mortgage-financed sales made up 55 percent of all sales, equal to the 1955 level, which was the highest reported since similar estimates were started in 1946. A slight decline was observed in the frequency of sales contracts, from 19 percent of farm purchases in 1955 to 18 percent last year. Cash sales amounted to 27 percent of all sales, up one point from a year earlier.

The relative number of cash sales has declined steadily since the current series was established in 1946. In that year, reporters estimated that 56 percent of all farms were purchased with cash. A steady decline followed each year until in 1950 only 39 percent of all farm sales were cash deals. In 1951, reporters noted a slight increase in the use of cash, but the following year the downward movement was renewed. It continued until 1955 when cash sales accounted for only 26 percent of all sales of farmland.

During the last year, the proportion of all sales that were mortgagefinanced was the highest of record in all areas of the country except in the
Northeast. Rather sharp increases in the frequency of cash sales were
reported in the Northeast and the Pacific States, but the level in the remaining
States was largely unchanged on the average. Little change in the use of sales
contracts was reported in most areas of the country, except for a drop in the
Pacific States.

# Farm-Mortgage Debt Increases

The total amount of farm-mortgage debt outstanding on January 1, 1956, is estimated at \$9.0 billion, an increase of 10 percent from a year earlier. Although this increase is one of the largest in recent years, this farm mortgage debt represents less than 9 percent of the estimated total dollar value of all farm real estate. Thus, although the total amount of mortgage debt in the U. S. has nearly doubled in 10 years, the value of farm real estate has increased nearly as much. Variations from this general situation can be found, of course, among farming areas and on individual farms.

Late in 1954, the Federal Land Banks raised their appraisal levels on most grades of farmland, and several insurance companies increased their appraisals or upper loan limits. Also, the Federal Reserve Act was amended in August 1955 to permit national banks to make "conventional" real estate loans (loans not insured or guaranteed by the Federal Government) for periods up to a maximum of 20 years and up to two-thirds of appraised values. Prior to that amendment, national banks were not authorized to make such loans with maturities of more than 10 years or for more than 60 percent of the appraised value. Apparently these changes in loan policies of several major institutional lenders are among the factors contributing to the increase in farm mortgage debt during 1955.

During the first quarter of 1956, farm mortgage loans made by most institutional lenders showed a general increase in average size while the actual number of such loans increased less or declined slightly, compared with the same period a year earlier. Comments of farm real estate reporters in several central States this spring suggested that more farm real estate mortgages were used to refinance short-term debts or provide security for production credit. Data from lenders, however, indicate that during the first quarter of 1956 the purposes for which proceeds of farm mortgage loans were to be used were largely unchanged from the same period in 1955. Approximately one-third of the loan commitments for 13 life insurance companies were to be used to buy real estate, while another one-third were for refinancing existing farm real estate mortgages. The proportion to be used to refinance other indebtedness was unchanged at 14 percent of the total funds committed during the quarter.

As of April 1, 1956, 16 life insurance companies that hold 182,000 mortgages on farm real estate reported 100 in the process of foreclosure. This was less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the total. A year earlier, the same companies reported 82 loans in process of foreclosure. The number of mortgages with interest overdue more than 3 months was a little higher this spring. Apparently, delinquencies and foreclosures are not a major problem with life insurance companies, and much of the increase is attributable to the larger volume of loans.

Although these data suggest that prospective purchasers of farmland generally met with a favorable credit situation during the last year, conditions at the local level where loans are sought sometimes vary considerably from what can be inferred from broad national or regional summaries. In order to gain some clues as to the local situation, farm real estate reporters were asked this March for their observations concerning changes that had occurred during the year in several aspects of the farm credit situation. The factors included were interest rates, appraised values, loan limits, selectivity of borrower and security, and the general availability of credit.

In all States, the number of reporters that had observed an increase in interest rates outnumbered those that noted declines. This tendency was observed most frequently in the central and western Corn Belt, Lake, Plains and northern Mountain States. 3/ Reductions in appraised values were noted most

<sup>3/</sup> A more recent development affecting farm mortgage interest rates occurred on June 1 when the Federal Land Banks in several districts announced an increase of one-half of 1 percent. This brought the rate at the Berkeley and Spokane banks to 45 percent and the Baltimore bank's rate to 5 percent, the same as at the Columbia, S. C. bank. As of June 1, the rate at Springfield, Mass. was 42 percent and at the remaining 7 banks, 4 percent.

frequently in Colorado, Missouri, Washington, and several Appalachian States, and to a lesser extent throughout the rest of the Corn Belt, Northern Plains, and Southeast. Loan limits were reported to be largely unchanged in the Corn Belt and Northern Plains, although reductions were again frequent in Washington, Missouri, and Colorado. Observations of a reduction in loan limits in the Southeast were more common than in the case of appraised values. Reporters in most States felt that lenders had become more selective with respect to both the borrower and the security offered, thus pointing to some reduction in the availability of credit. Increases in the selectivity of security and borrower were most common in the Northern and Western States as well as in Maryland, Virginia, and South Carolina. Strongest tendencies for less credit to be available were noted in several Western States, Wisconsin, Michigan, and Kentucky.

#### APPENDIX

## Indexes of Average Value by Class of Iand--Western States

Revised indexes of the value of irrigated, dry farming, and grazing land have been made for each of the Mountain and Pacific States annually as of March 1. beginning in 1926. Extensive revisions in these indexes were made early this year. These were necessary to recognize 1954 census data, which became available in late 1955. The census showed increases in these States that were as great as in the rest of the country, whereas the previous indexes were up very little. basic data used for index purposes are supplied by crop reporters who provide separate estimates of the value for irrigated, dry farming, and grazing land as of the reporting date and also for a year earlier. The cumulative changes shown by the estimates of current value for each reporting date agreed quite closely with the change reported by the census. However, no attempt was made to achieve complete agreement with the census because of differences in value concepts. 4/ The ratios of change from the previous year are used to construct a link-relative type index for each class of land. (See table 7). Ratios of change for each class of land are then weighted to obtain the percentage change for all farmland. (See table 6). Although most of the revisions were made in the 1950-54 period, some were necessary in the base period 1947-49, thus necessitating revisions in the entire series back to 1912.

<sup>4/</sup> The index of land values is based primarily on crop reporters' estimates of market value of farmland (including improvements) in their localities; these estimates are made 3 times a year. Fixed weights, an average of acres in farms from the 1954 and 1950 census, are applied to the average values for each crop district to obtain State, regional, and national averages for index purposes.

Farm operators, who make up a sample of all operators, are requested to estimate the market value of their farms as a part of the regular agricultural census. In some States, part-time and residential farms as well as nonfarm uses probably have a greater weight in census estimates than in estimates obtained from crop reporters.

Table 3. - Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, by States and farm production regions, March 1956, with comparisons 1/

1947-49=100

				-2 1					
State and	1940	: 1945		: 1952	: 1953	: 1954	:	1955	1956
Region	-	: 1747		• <del>1</del> 772	• 1773	: 1974	March	: July : Nov.	: March 2/
Maine New Hampshire Vermont Massachusetts Rhode Island Connecticut New York New Jersey Pennsylvania	69 67 58 74 66 65 59 62 58	85 83 74 87 79 78 75 79 80	95 97 101 99 101 100 105 103 102	103 105 113 112 111 110 121 122 129	111 108 113 112 111 111 121 126 129	109 105 107 106 109 109 117 129	104 105 104 106 108 111 119	107 109 105 108 105 108 107 109 109 112 111 115 120 122 134 138 138 142	107 108 107 108 112 115 124 143 143
Delaware Maryland	55 50	76 73	98 99	121	123 129	124 129	130 136	132 132 136 139	135 140
Northeast :	60	78	102	121	122	121	123	125 128	130
Ohio Indiana Illinois Iowa Missouri	46 44 50 51 50	72 73 74 73 78	101 103 108 108 106	134 135 138 132 138	134 138 140 128 132	137	141 147 142 133 130	144 148 150 154 148 149 136 137 131 <b>3/</b> 137	151 154 149 136 134
Corn Belt	49	74	106	135	134	132	139	142 145	144
Michigan Wisconsin Minnesota	46 58 55	73 76 74	100 101 109	123 119 137	126 119 134	113	133 113 135	136 141 114 117 141 147	141 117 145
Lake States	54	75	104	127	127	122	127	130 135	135
Virginia West Virginia North Carolina Kentucky Tennessee	48 58 43 42 42	74 72 70 70 69	101 95 106 102 103	129 112 132 128 124	134 113 138 123 125	129 107 133 116 116	3/135 110 3/140 115 118	136 142 110 115 144 <u>3</u> /145 119 119 118 121	143 117 146 115 121
Appalachian	44	70	103	127	129	123	126	128 130	130
South Carolina Georgia Florida Alabama	43 45 57 47	78 73 96 69	97 99 97 101	117 128 120 125	119 136 123 131	120 134 134 125	121 138 141 3/125	121 124 138 141 141 146 127 130	126 145 157 134
Southeast	48	79	99	123	128	129	132	133 136	141
								/=	

(Continued)

Table 3.- Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, by States and farm production regions, March 1956, with comparisons 1/ - Continued.

## 1947-49=100

State and Region	:	1940	:	<b>1</b> 945	: 19	50	: : 1952	:	1953	:	<b>1</b> 954	:::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::::	March	<b>1</b> 955	Lу	: Nov.	:	1956 March 2/
Mississippi Arkansas Louisiana	:	46 40 57		71 71 77	10	)6 )5 )5_	134 131 120		139 128 130		124	:	137 126 138	139 128 139	3	3/142 129 142	:	147 132 146
Delta States	:	46		72	10	)4	128		131		129	:	132	133	3	136	:	140
Oklahoma Texas	:	50 55		69 77	10	)8 )2	138 139		133 134		128 133	:	136 137	137 141		140 139	:	138 139
S. Plains	•	54		75	10	)3	139		133		132	:	137	140	)	<b>1</b> 39	:	<b>1</b> 39
North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska Kansas	•	48 47 47 45		71 69 68 70	10 12 10	1	133 145 136 131		136 140 136 133		135 127	:	132 139 134 129	138 138 137 132	3	3/139 142 3/136 136	•	136 140 133 133
N. Plains	:	46		70	10	7_	135		135		129	:	133	136	5	137	:	<b>1</b> 35
Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	43 43 40 37 36 40 49		68 76 67 64 70 75 73 81	10	)7 )0 )4 )7	141 134 129 133 138 127 134 129		144 138 128 130 136 136 137 129		123 128		146 142 123 128 136 137 137	149 141 122 130 138 139 138	)	152 144 124 127 137 141 136 139	•	152 146 123 124 137 144 139 142
Mountain	•	41		70	10	)4	134		136		134	:	<b>1</b> 36	137	,	138	:	138
Washington Oregon California Pacific	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	45 41 42 42		75 74 80 79	9	1994	127 121 123 123		134 127 125 127		alada (a.	:	137 128 128 130	140 129 130	)	142 129 131	:	140 130 137
UNITED STATES	:	49		74	10	3	132		132		128	:	133	<b>1</b> 36		137	:	138

<sup>1/</sup> All farmlands with improvements as of March 1, except as indicated. 2/ Figures for March 1956 are preliminary. 3/ Revised.

Table 4. - Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, by States and geographic divisions, March 1956, with comparisons 1/

(1912-14=100)

Minnesota 213 133 86 169 207 196 210 218 228 225  Iowa 213 113 74 158 188 183 195 199 201 198  Missouri 167 92 59 124 154 145 153 154 3/161 158  North Dakota 145 95 52 115 146 144 142 149 3/149 147  South Dakota 181 93 41 97 122 117 121 120 123 122  Nebraska 179 113 58 130 169 159 167 171 3/170 165  Kansas 151 113 71 169 211 198 205 210 217 212  W.N. Central 184 109 65 142 177 169 177 181 184 181  Delaware 139 111 89 158 199 199 210 213 213 217  Maryland 166 123 100 199 259 259 273 274 279 282  Virginia 189 134 112 235 310 300 313 315 329 332  W. Virginia 154 105 85 139 165 157 161 162 168 172  N. Carolina 223 158 138 341 446 428 3/451 465 3/468 471  S. Carolina 230 104 89 203 249 249 253 253 258 265  Georgia 217 100 82 181 249 246 252 253 258 265  Florida 178 172 133 226 286 313 328 330 340 366	1056															
Meine   142   124   95   132   154   152   145   148   151   148   New Hampshire   129   111   94   136   152   147   147   147   152   152   152   New Hampshire   150   123   101   176   196   186   181   184   188   186   181   184   183   184	and	:	-	: 193	0	1940		0 :	1953	:		: March :		: Nov.	: 195	
New Hampshire   129   111   54   136   152   147   147   147   152   152   152   154   146   155   123   101   176   196   186   181   184   188   186   181   184   183   185   186   181   184   183   185   186   181   184   183   185   186   181   184   183   185   186   181   184   183   185   186   181   184   185   185   186   181   184   185   1	DIVIDION	-	•	•			-					· PARCH ·	o arry	. 110 4 6	· PALCI	
New York	New Hampshire Vermont Massachusetts Rhode Island		129 150 140 130	11: 12: 13: 13 <sup>1</sup>	1 3 1	94 101 113 120	13 17 15 18	6 6 2 4	152 196 171 203		147 186 163 200	147 181 161 197	147 184 163 200	152 188 166 204	: 152 : 186 : 164 : 204	
New Jersey	New England		140	12	7	106	15	7	177		171	169	171	175	173	
Ohio 159 90 77 167 223 220 234 239 246 252 Indiana 161 80 74 174 233 232 249 254 260 260 Illinois 160 91 75 162 210 209 213 221 224 224 Michigan 154 121 91 198 249 252 263 268 278 279 Wisconsin 171 117 84 145 172 162 162 164 169 169  E.N. Central 161 96 78 166 214 211 219 225 230 231  Minnesota 213 133 86 169 207 196 210 218 228 225 Iowa 213 113 74 158 188 183 195 199 201 198 Missouri 167 92 59 124 154 145 153 154 3/161 158 North Dakota 145 95 52 115 146 144 142 149 3/149 147 South Dakota 181 93 41 97 122 142 120 123 122 Nebraska 179 113 58 130 169 159 167 171 3/170 165 Kansas 151 113 71 169 211 198 205 210 217 212  W.N. Central 184 109 65 142 177 169 177 181 184 181  Delaware 139 111 89 158 199 199 200 213 223 227 W. Virginia 189 134 112 235 310 300 313 315 329 332 W. Virginia 123 158 138 341 446 228 3/451 166 3/468 172 N. Carolina 223 158 138 341 446 428 3/451 166 3/468 172 N. Carolina 230 104 89 203 249 249 253 253 258 263 Georgia 217 100 82 181 249 246 252 253 258 265 Florida 178 172 133 226 286 313 328 3300 304 3/310 317	New Jersey		130	12	5	116	19	4	238		243	: 249	254	260	270	
Ohio 159 90 77 167 223 220 234 239 246 252 Indiana 161 80 74 174 233 232 249 254 260 260 Illinois 160 91 75 162 210 209 213 221 224 224 Michigan 154 121 91 198 249 252 263 268 278 279 Wisconsin 171 117 84 145 172 162 162 164 169 169  E.N. Central 161 96 78 166 214 211 219 225 230 231  Minnesota 213 133 86 169 207 196 210 218 228 225 Iowa 213 113 74 158 188 183 195 199 201 198 Missouri 167 92 59 124 154 145 153 154 3/161 158 North Dekota 145 95 52 115 146 144 142 149 3/149 147 South Dekota 181 93 41 97 122 117 121 120 123 122 Nebraska 179 113 58 130 169 159 167 171 3/170 165 Kansas 151 113 71 169 211 198 205 210 217 212  W.N. Central 184 109 65 142 177 169 177 181 184 181  Delaware 139 111 89 158 199 199 200 213 213 217 Maryland 166 123 100 199 259 259 273 274 279 282 Virginia 189 134 112 235 310 300 313 315 329 332 W. Virginia 154 158 138 341 446 228 3/451 166 3/468 172 N. Carolina 223 158 138 341 446 428 3/451 166 162 168 172 N. Carolina 230 104 89 203 249 249 253 253 258 263 Georgia 217 100 82 181 249 246 252 253 258 265 Florida 179 127 106 224 291 288 3/300 304 3/310 317	Mid. Atlantic		136	100	5	90	15	7	191		189	194	198	202	205	
Minnesota 213 133 86 169 207 196 210 218 228 225  Iowa 213 113 74 158 188 183 195 199 201 198  Missouri 167 92 59 124 154 145 153 154 3/161 158  North Dakota 145 95 52 115 146 144 142 149 3/149 147  South Dakota 181 93 41 97 122 117 121 120 123 122  Nebraska 179 113 58 130 169 159 167 171 3/170 165  Kansas 151 113 71 169 211 198 205 210 217 212  W.N. Central 184 109 65 142 177 169 177 181 184 181  Delaware 139 111 89 158 199 199 210 213 213 217  Maryland 166 123 100 199 259 259 273 274 279 282  Virginia 189 134 112 235 310 300 313 315 329 332  W. Virginia 154 105 85 139 165 157 161 162 168 172  N. Carolina 223 158 138 341 446 428 3/451 465 3/468 471  S. Carolina 230 104 89 234 249 249 253 253 258 263  Georgia 217 100 82 181 249 249 255 253 258 265  Florida 178 172 133 226 286 313 328 330 340 366  S. Atlantic 199 127 106 224 291 288 3/300 304 3/310 317	Indiana Illinois Michigan		: 161	80 91 121	D L L	74 75 91	17. 16. 19.	28	233 210 249		232 209 252	249 213 263	254 221 268	260 224 278	260 224 279	
Iowa   213   113   74   158   188   183   195   199   201   198     Missouri   167   92   59   124   154   145   153   154   3/161   158     North Dekota   145   95   52   115   146   144   142   149   3/149   147     South Dekota   181   93   41   97   122   117   121   120   123   122     Nebraska   179   113   58   130   169   159   167   171   3/170   165     Kansas   151   113   71   169   211   198   205   210   217   212     W.N. Central   184   109   65   142   177   169   177   181   184   181     Delaware   139   111   89   158   199   199   210   213   213   217     Maryland   166   123   100   199   259   259   273   274   279   282     Virginia   189   134   112   235   310   300   313   315   329   332     W. Virginia   154   105   85   139   165   157   161   162   168   172     N. Carolina   223   158   138   341   446   428   3/451   465   3/468   471     S. Carolina   230   104   89   203   249   249   253   253   258   263     Georgia   217   100   82   181   249   246   252   253   258   265     Florida   178   172   133   226   286   313   328   330   340   366     S. Atlantic   199   127   106   224   291   288   3/300   304   3/310   317	E.N. Central		161	96	5	78	16	5	214		211	219	225	230	: 231	
Delaware 139 111 89 158 199 199 210 213 213 217  Maryland 166 123 100 199 259 259 273 274 279 282  Virginia 189 134 112 235 310 300 313 315 329 332  W. Virginia 154 105 85 139 165 157 161 162 168 172  N. Carolina 223 158 138 341 446 428 3/451 465 3/468 471  S. Carolina 230 104 89 203 249 249 253 253 258 263  Georgia 217 100 82 181 249 246 252 253 258 265  Florida 178 172 133 226 286 313 328 330 340 366  S. Atlantic 199 127 106 224 291 288 3/300 304 3/310 317	Iowa Missouri North Dakota South Dakota Nebraska	4	213 167 145 181 179	113 92 95 93 113	5	74 59 52 41 58	15 12 11 9 13	3 4 5 7	188 154 146 122 169		183 145 144 117 159	195 153 142 121 167	199 154 149 120 171	201 3/161 3/149 123 3/170	198 158 147 122 165	
Maryland       166       123       100       199       259       259       273       274       279       282         Virginia       189       134       112       235       310       300       313       315       329       332         W. Virginia       154       105       85       139       165       157       161       162       168       172         N. Carolina       223       158       138       341       446       428       3/451       465       3/468       471         S. Carolina       230       104       89       203       249       249       253       253       258       263         Georgia       217       100       82       181       249       246       252       253       258       265         Florida       178       172       133       226       286       313       328       330       340       366         S. Atlantic       199       127       106       224       291       288       3/300       304       3/310       317	W.N. Central		184	109	)	65	142	2	177		169	177	181	184	: 181	
	Delaware Maryland Virginia W. Virginia N. Carolina S. Carolina Georgia Florida		166 189 154 223 230 217	123 131 105 158 104	} ; ; ;	100 112 85 138 89 82	199 239 139 341 203 183	9 5 1 1 1	259 310 165 446 249 249		259 300 157 428 249 246	273 313 161 3/451 253 252	274 315 162 465 253 253	279 329 168 3/468 258 258	282 332 172 471 263 265	
	S. Atlantic		199	127	,	106	221	-	291		288	3/300	304	3/310	: 317	
		-										•				

Table 4. - Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, by States and geographic divisions, March 1956, with comparisons 1/ - Continued

#### 1912-14-100

State and Division	:	1920	:	1930	:	1940	:	1950	:	1953	:	1954	:-	March	1955	7 :	Nov.	:	1956 March 2/
Kentucky Tennessee Alabama Mississippi	•	200 200 177 218		127 123 143 122		113 108 122 106		272 265 260 244		330 321 337 320		298 320 312	:	308 303 3/321 317	320 305 325 320	)	319 311 335 3/327	:	309 312 345 340
E.S. Central Arkansas Louisiana Oklahoma Texas	•	199 222 198 166 174		141 132 127 138		95 121 93 99		263 247 221 202 184		327 302 274 250 241		310 293 279 240 240	:	3/311 297 291 254 248	317 302 294 257 254		3/322 305 300 261 250	:	323 312 308 259 250
W.S. Central	:	177		136		99		192		247		245	:	254	259	)	258	:	258
Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	• • • • • • • • •	126 172 177 141 144 165 167		82 130 111 89 112 139 125 98		55 92 73 57 79 89 81 66		132 230 183 161 232 218 179 132		184 298 235 201 296 302 228 172		181 293 225 198 294 200 223 183	•	186 307 225 198 295 304 229 186	189 304 223 202 300 308 230 186	3	193 310 226 197 297 312 228 186	• • • • • • • • • •	193 314 224 193 297 318 233 190
Mountain	:	148	·	103		69		175		228		225	:	229	231		232	:	232
Washington Oregon California	•	139 129 167		113 111 164		94 73 98		210 176 220		279 224 293		274 218 287	:	285 226 301	290 227 304		296 229 307	: : :	291 230 322
Pacific	•	157		147		94		212		281		274	•	287	290		293	:	303
United States	:	173		114		82		174		221		216	•	3/224	228		231	:	232

<sup>1/</sup> All farmlands with improvements as of March 1, except as indicated. Revised January 1956

<sup>2/</sup> Figures for March 1956 are preliminary. 3/ Revised.

Table 5.- Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre. Farm production Regions and United States, 1940-56. 1/

1947-49=100

Year and Date	North- east	Corn Belt	Lake States	Appal- achian	South- east	Delta States	: ern	: North- : ern : Plains	Mount- ain	: Pacific	United States
1940	: 60	49	54	44	48	46	54	46	41	42	: 49
1941	60	50	54	45	50	48	54	45	43	43	: 49
1942	:		0	1.0	1			1.0	l. ee	1.0	
March	: 63	55	58	49	54	52	57	48	47	48	53
July	• 62	<b>5</b> 4 56	57	49	54	52	<b>58</b> 58	<b>47</b> 48	49 51	51 51	. 53 . 54
Nov. 1943	: 63	20	57	51	55	53	50	40	71	71	: )+
March	68	60	63	54	59	58	60	53	53	55	58
July	. 69	61	63	55	60	59	61	53	55	59	59
Nov.	70	63	64	57	63	59	62	55	58	63	. 61
1944											:
March	72	69	70	62	69	63	68	63	63	67	67
July	: 73	70	72	63	71	64	71	63	65 68	71	69
Nov.	: 74	71	73	64	72	64	71	64	68	75	: 70
1945	: 50	71.	F7.	70	770	70	75	70	70	70	: 71
March	: 78	74 75	75 76	70 72	79 82	72 72	75 78	70 72	70 74	79 85	74 76
July Nov.	: 79 : 81	75 76	77	75	84	74	79	72	77	88	78
1946	: 01	10	1.1	17	0-	1	12	12	11	00	:
March	85	84	84	83	89	80	84	77	81	92	. 84
July	. 88	86	86	86	92	83	85	80	86	96.	. 86
Nov.	91	88	89	88	93	84	89	82	90	101	. 89
1947											
March	95	94	94	96	98	92	91	87	93	100	94
July	: 96	95	95	95	96	92	95	92	97	101	95
Nov.	: 97	96	96	96	97	94	97	94	100	102	97
1948	:	101	3.03	000	00	00	102	100	102	102	: 101
March	: 99 : 100	101 103	101 104	99 101	98 100	98 101	103 108	103 106	106	101	104
July Nov.	103	104	105	102	102	105	111	109	108	102	106
1949	: 10)	20-7	20)	202	#0Z	20)		20)	2.00		: ====
March	105	105	105	105	104	107	106	110	105	98	. 105
July	104	104	103	103	100	103	104	107	105	98	104
Nov.	102	104	103	102	98	102	101	105	105	96	102
1950	:										
March	102	106	104	103	99	104	103	107	104	96	: 103
July	103	108	106	103	100	104	105	107	109	103	: 106
Nov.	: 106	114	110	107	105	107	111	113	114	106	: 111
1951 March	110	125	119	115	110	117	122	121	122	110	: 119
July	115	128	123	121	116	122	128	126	128	118	124
Nov.	118	131	125	124	119	123	131	128	132	120	127
1952											•
March	121	135	127	127	123	128	139	135	134	123	132
July	122	137	127	130	124	130	139	135	137	124	133
Nov.	123	137	127	129	126	131	136	134	136	126	: 132
1953	: 7.00	101	107	100	100	101	100	125	126	1.07	: 120
March	: 122	134	127	129	128	131	133	135	136	127 125	132
July Nov.	122	132 130	125 122	127 123	128 128	130 129	132 131	133 129	134 132	124	128
1954	161	±20	166	±2)	معدد	167	-0-	167	ے رہـ	ala-fin T	
March	121	132	122	123	129	129	132	129	134	124	128
July	122	134	123	124	130	129	134	129	134	126	129
Nov.	122	137	125	125	130	130	135	131	134	128	131
1955						_					
March	123	139	127	126	132	132	137	133	136	130	: 133
July	125	142	130	128	133	133	140	136	137	131	: 136
Nov.	: 128	145	135	130	136	136	139	137	138	132	: 137
1956	: 700	9 1, 1,	105	120	21.2	71.0	120	125	129	127	138
March 2/	: 130	144	135	130	141	140	139	135	138	137	: 130

<sup>1/</sup> All farmland with improvements: Indexes for 1940 and 1941 are as of March 1; indexes for 1942 and later years are as of March 1, July 1, and November 1.
2/ Figures for March 1956 are preliminary.

Table 6.- Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, all farmland Western States March 1, 1912-56. 1/

1947-49=100

Year	: :Montan	a:Idaho:	Wyoming	Colorad	New Mexico	Arizona	Utah	:Nevada	Mounta: region	in Washingto	on:Oregon:	Calif- ornia	Pacific region
1914 1915 1916	: 76 : 79 : 81 : 79 : 74 : 79 : 83 : 90	46 47 46 45 46 53 68	53 56 55 56 51 53 66 80	64 67 64 60 66 69 71	46 48 44 46 46 51 54	43 45 47 44 43 47 56	60 61 58 58 62 70 73 86	72 75 77 76 74 72 77 87	: 58 : 61 : 59 : 58 : 58 : 63 : 68 : 76	: 47 : 48 : 49 : 48 : 49 : 54 : 57 : 57	55 57 58 56 57 59 63 67	40 42 46 47 49 55 58 60	: 43 : 45 : 48 : 49 : 50 : 56 : 58 : 61
1920 1921 1922 1923 1924 1925 1926 1927 1928 1929	99 83 75 68 64 59 57 59 64 66	80 75 63 62 60 57 55 58 60 61	97 80 73 66 61 54 52 52 56 59	91 85 79 73 63 60 57 58 58	66 57 53 51 50 49 49 49	74 67 61 56 58 55 57 57 61 62	100 82 80 80 78 78 77 78 79	101 92 89 83 81 77 74 75 74	: 88 : 78 : 71 : 67 : 63 : 59 : 57 : 59 : 61 : 61	67 64 59 56 55 54 55 55 55 55 55	73 74 69 65 64 62 61 63 63	71 72 71 70 70 70 69 71 70	: 71 : 71 : 69 : 67 : 67 : 66 : 67 : 66
1931	64 57 45 37 38 39 41 43 42 42	60 53 43 34 35 37 39 43 42 42	61 57 44 33 33 33 36 38 39	57 53 40 32 32 32 34 36 37	52 48 38 32 33 34 34 35 35 35	63 58 44 34 37 40 43 41	75 65 57 47 47 48 49 48	74 68 58 45 45 47 49 49	: 61 : 55 : 44 : 35 : 35 : 36 : 38 : 41 : 40	54 47 39 32 35 38 40 45 45 45	63 56 45 35 34 35 37 41 41	70 64 53 40 39 41 44 48 48	66 50 50 38 38 40 43 47 47
1940 1941 1942 1943 1944 1945 1946 1947 1948	: 43 : 45 : 49 : 55 : 62 : 68 : 79 : 93 : 101 : 107	43 44 48 55 66 76 84 93 102 105	40 42 46 53 61 67 81 91 105	37 38 42 47 57 64 77 92 102	36 38 42 49 62 70 82 89 103 108	40 45 48 57 67 75 87 97 101	49 52 56 60 67 73 83 94 102	49 50 54 61 71 81 92 99 102 99	: 41 : 43 : 47 : 53 : 63 : 70 : 81 : 93 :102 :105	: 45 : 46 : 52 : 57 : 70 : 75 : 88 : 95 : 103 : 102	41 44 48 54 65 74 88 97 103	42 47 55 67 80 94 102 101 97	: 43 : 43 : 48 : 55 : 67 : 79 : 92 : 100 : 102 : 98
1950 1951 1952 1953 1954 1955	104 127 141 144 142 146 /: 152	107 125 134 138 136 142 146	100 118 129 128 123 123	104 121 133 130 <b>128</b> 128 124	107 123 138 136 135 136 137	99 113 127 136 135 137 144	107 121 134 137 133 137 139	99 114 129 129 137 139 142	:104 :122 :134 :136 :134 :136 :138	: 101 : 117 : 127 : 134 : 132 : 137 : 140	99 11 <sup>1</sup> 4 121 127 123 128 130	94 108 123 125 122 128 137	: 96 : 110 : 123 : 127 : 124 : 130 : 137

<sup>1/</sup> Revised March 1956. 2/ Preliminary.

Table 7.- Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per scre, by type of land. Western States Merch 1. 1926-56 1/

#### 1947-49=100

															:	:
State and Region				1929	1930		1932	: 1933 :	: 193 <sup>4</sup>		-		-		-	: 1941
	:						IRRIGA	TED LAN	D							
Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	59 55 54 67 44 58 76 65	61 58 56 69 44 57 77 66	64 61 60 70 46 62 78 65	64 63 63 70 <b>78</b> 63 79 66	64 62 64 68 47 63 72 65	58 56 60 63 43 58 61 61	48 46 50 48 33 44 55 56	39 35 39 38 29 34 45 49	39 36 39 38 29 34 46 47	43 39 40 39 31 36 46 45	48 41 44 43 33 42 47 46	52 46 48 47 37 46 48 47	54 45 48 48 36 46 48 46	56 44 49 48 36 45 48 46	57 44 49 48 39 45 48 47	57 45 51 49 43 48 53 48
	78	78	76	73	73	69	60	42	42	42	46	51	49	49	47	46
Oregon California	57 71	59 73	58 73	60 73	61 73	53 67	42 56	33 41	34 41	35 43	38 47	43 51	43 50	42 43	42 41	45 41
Pacific	71	72	72	72	72	67	56	41	41	43	46	50	50	43	41	41
ll Western States	68	69	70	71	70	64	53	40	40	42	45	49	49	11.11	43	44
							DRY FAR	MING LA	.ND							
	57 57 45 48 43 56 77	60 59 50 47 45 57 80 71	66 59 50 48 46 58 82 73	69 59 55 49 46 60 84 73	66 59 57 49 49 60 84 72	57 47 51 45 46 53 79 67	45 37 39 34 39 43 67 54	40 29 29 27 32 38 54 40	40 30 29 26 32 42 54 40	40 32 28 25 31 43 53 41	42 35 27 25 32 48 52 45	43 40 28 26 32 48 54 49	40 40 29 26 34 44 54 49	40 40 29 26 33 41 51 48	41 41 31 27 33 41 52 49	43 42 33 29 35 44 56
Mountain	54	55	58	59	59_	51	39	33	33	34	35	36	36	3'5	36	38
California :	61 59	50 64 59	51 63 58	48 63 57	50 62 57	42 56 53	34 44 42	30 35 3 <sup>1</sup> 4	35 33 34	39 35 36	40 37 38	45 40 43	44 41 42	եր 41 41	46 41 41	47 45 42
Pacific Ll Western States	<u>56</u> 55	57 56	56 57	55 56	56 56	50 50	40	32 33	34 34	<u>36</u> 36	38 38	42	42	40	42	42
							GRAZI	NG LANI	)	-						
I daho Wyoming Colorado Wew Mexico: Arizona Utah Hevada	58 53 57 81 <b>7</b> 9	60 65 51 56 53 59 79 80	65 65 55 54 52 62 81	67 63 58 54 52 64 80 78	66 61 60 54 55 65 79 78	57 54 56 49 52 63 74 70	46 47 41 37 41 48 61 59	35 39 31 30 34 36 49 43	36 39 31 29 35 37 49	36 40 31 29 35 39 48 44	37 38 33 29 35 40 48	38 41 35 30 34 42 49 51	37 39 35 31 35 40 47 52	38 40 35 30 35 40 47 50	39 42 36 31 36 36 48 51	41 47 39 32 37 44 49 52
Mountain :	59	59	61	62	62	57	45	35	36	36	36	37	37	37	38	40
Washington Oregon California: Pacific:	64 72	50 65 73 69	48 66 72 67	50 67 71 67	50 66 71 67	45 59 64 60	35 48 53 50	31 <b>37</b> 39 38	31 35 39 37	35 36 40 39	36 38 43 41	41 41 47 45	44 41 45 44	44 39 44 43	43 40 44 44	44 44 45
ll Western States		64	64	64	64	58	47	36	36	37	39	41	41	40	40	42

<sup>1/</sup> Revised January 1956

Table 7. - Farm Real Estate: Index numbers of average value per acre, by type of land. Western States, March 1, 1926-56  $\underline{1}$ /- Continued

#### 1947-49=100

State and Region : 1942 : 1943 : 1944 : 1945 : 1946 : 1947 : 1948 : 1949 : 1950 : 1951 : 1952 : 1953 : 1954 : 1955 : 1956																
	: : 19 <sup>1</sup> 42	: : 1943	1944	: : 1945	: 1946											
						IRR:	IGATED	LAND								
Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	: 60 : 49 : 53 : 52 : 50 : 53 : 56 : 52	66 57 59 57 57 61 59 60	75 69 66 65 66 70 65 68	77 80 73 72 73 81 72 77	85 87 83 83 83 91 84 89	96 96 96 93 92 96 98 98	102 101 102 102 101 103 100 102	103 103 102 105 106 101 101	100 106 104 102 105 96 106 97	119 123 115 121 127 110 121 117	136 132 120 131 134 122 131 130	134 139 119 125 132 126 133 137	131 136 116 124 139 124 128 137	128 142 120 129 138 133 136 133	132 147 123 126 143 138 140 139	
Mountain	53	59	68	76	86	95	101	103	103	120	130	131	129	134	137	
Washington Oregon California	55 48 46	62 53 55	77 67 68	80 77 81	92 91 95	95 94 104	105 103 100	100 103 96	103 103 94	119 111 106	133 122 121	138 129 124	136 126 122	140 129 128	139 126 138	
Pacific	: 47	56	68	81	95	103	101	96	95	107	122	125	123	129	137	_
ll Western States	: 49	57	68	79	92	101	101	98	97	111_	124	127_	124	130	137	
						DR <b>Y</b> F	ARMING	LAND								
Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	: 48 : 46 : 39 : 33 : 39 : 48 : 61	53 54 46 41 48 53 63	62 63 55 52 61 61 71 68	68 70 63 61 68 71 79	80 78 76 73 80 84 85 91	92 88 89 89 91 97 93 97	102 104 104 101 100 99 100 102	107 109 107 110 109 104 108	105 108 101 105 107 103 112	126 130 122 127 124 117 120 120	139 138 127 136 136 137 133 141	145 139 127 135 139 138 141 148	147 137 121 133 144 141 144	153 144 126 125 139 142 139 146	159 149 132 123 136 151 137 148	
Mountain	43	50	59	67	<b>7</b> 8	90	102	108	106	126	137	139	139	140	142	
Washington Oregon California	51 49 45	56 53 51	69 64 63	7 <sup>4</sup> 72 75	86 87 89	96 99 100	102 102 102	103 100 98	100 98 91	117 113 109	124 117 124	130 126 129	128 120 123	133 126 129	139 133 138	
Pacific	48	<u>5</u> 3	65	73	87	98	101	101	95	112	122	128	123	129	137	
11 Western States	:: 47	52	63	72	85	96	102	103	99	117	127	132	129	133	139	
						G	RAZING	LAND								
Montana Idaho Wyoming Colorado New Mexico Arizona Utah Nevada	45 49 44 35 40 47 54	51 57 51 40 47 53 61 60	58 64 60 49 60 64 70	65 72 66 59 69 71 74 83	76 81 80 73 81 84 81	92 90 89 92 88 97 88 99	99 106 107 102 103 100 104 103	109 104 104 105 109 103 108	105 106 99 105 107 100	131 123 119 114 121 115 121 112	146 136 133 133 139 132 139 128	149 135 133 130 137 145 141	142 133 126 128 133 144 138	148 140 124 127 135 140 137	154 136 121 122 134 148 137 143	
Mountain	44	50	60	68	80	91	103	106	104	120	137	138	135	136	137	
Washington Oregon California	50 48 49	56 57 55	68 66 69	75 76 81	90 87 94	94 97 98	105 103 103	101 100 98	100 97 <b>93</b>	115 117 112	127 125 127	139 124 125	136 123 123	143 129 126	140 128 133	
Pacific	49	56	68	79	92	97	10,3	99	95	113	126	127	125	129	134	
ll Western States	46	53	64	73	86	94	103	103	100	117	132	133	130	132	135	

<sup>1/</sup> Revised January 1956.





PENALITY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID PAYMENT OF POSTAGE \$300

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ACRICULTURE WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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